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ATHLETIC PEACE CONFERENCE

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Disputes among schools in New York and vicinity over athletics have produced a movement among schoolmen which may well be likened to the movement of nations toward peace. The same method has been followed.

Everyone has recognized the evils incident to interscholastic athletic contests, but no satisfactory remedy has been suggested. In the spring of 1904 the Schoolmasters' Association of New York and vicinity devoted one meeting to the discussion of the athletic situation. As a result of this discussion, a committee was appointed to devise ways and means of regulating interscholastic athletics.

The problem resolved itself into this: Are there certain general principles upon which a majority of schoolmen are agreed, in accordance with which they are willing that interscholastic athletic contests shall be governed?

After prolonged deliberation, articles of agreement were finally signed by forty-two schools, the agreement to be in force during 1903-4. In the spring of 1905 the committee of the Schoolmasters' Association was discharged. In its place an association, called the Principals' Athletic Council, was formed to carry on the work commenced by the Schoolmasters' Association. The Council is composed of headmasters of public and private schools of New York and vicinity. About twenty headmasters responded to the call for a meeting, and unanimous agreement was secured on the following regulations:

1. That only those students who maintain a grade of scholarship which will entitle them to promotion (if continued without improvement) shall be entitled to represent the school in athletics.
2. That no student, under penalty of discipline in his school, shall be eligible to represent such school.
3. That no student who is a graduate of a four-year secondary school course shall be eligible to represent any school.

4. That only students who are taking full work shall be eligible to represent the school.

5. That only students who are in good standing as amateurs shall be eligible to represent the school.

6. That the principal of every school shall be held to have ultimate responsibility in all matters concerning interschool contests.

7. That the person responsible for the immediate training of the team shall be a member of the regular staff of the school, or some other person directly responsible to the principal of the school.

8. That after October 15 of each year attendance of one full month shall be required of all students before they shall be entitled to represent the school in athletics. This, however, shall not operate to exclude students regularly promoted from an elementary school to a secondary school.

9. That on and after the twenty-first birthday of any student he be excluded from interscholastic athletics.

The following regulations were recommended, but were not accepted as mandatory:

10. That athletics limited to the students of the individual school should be carefully fostered.

11. That all interscholastic games should be played on Fridays, Saturdays, or on week-day holidays.

As soon as a majority of schools, public and private, have agreed to these regulations, it will be proposed that schools signing the agreement shall hold no contests with those who have not signed.

Thus a step in the right direction has been taken. It is hoped that this movement may be productive of similar movements in other parts of the country.